dues of all the 142 employees separated through VRS between November 2000 and January 2001 have now been settled.

(b) The diversion was necessitated in view of the orders from the court (23 persons), orders of Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) (9 persons) and legal notices (9 persons). It was contemplated that the same would be replenished from funds that may be made available for payment of gratuity of the said superannuated employees.

(c) and (d) Payments of interest on gratuity to the superannuated employees were made at rates varying from 5% to 10% as per court/ ALC orders. The gratuity dues of all the 142 employees separated through VRS between November 2000 and January 2001 have since been settled.

Commissioning of Programmes by Guwahati DD Kendra

2790. SHRIINDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) The amount allocated for commissioning of the programmes by the Doordarshan in the year 2002-03 in Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra and PPC(NE);and

(b) The number of episodes allocated to the private producers and how many producers are from the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that an amount of Rs. 8.00 crores and Rs.10.5 crores respectively has been allocated to Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati And PPC (NE), Guwahati for commissioning of programmes during the year 2002-2003.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that 1487 episodes were commissioned in DDK, Guwahati, all the producers of which are from North East only.

1379 episodes, from 410 producers, were commissioned in PPC, Guwahati, out of which 365 producers are from North East.

Use of Production and Broadcasting Facility of DD/AIR

2791. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRIR.K. ANAND:

SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: